

is an honor to be among you. And I thank you.

CALL FOR TOLERANCE FOR ETHNIC AMERICANS OF ARAB AND SOUTH ASIAN DESCENT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as the news media reported the attacks on New York City, Washington, DC and Pennsylvania, other attacks are also being reported by Americans on Americans who want immediate revenge. I am referring to incidence of hate crimes committed against Arab Americans, South Asians and other mistakenly identified individuals.

In spite of the terrorist attacks on our country, our nation's motto has not changed; it is still "Ex Pluribus Unum!" that is, "out of many one", or a nation representing people from around the world. The City of Chicago has a thriving community of Arab Americans who are not all Muslims. Regardless of religion, all law-abiding citizens of Chicago and other communities deserve full protection of the law against all acts of intolerance. The principle of justice for all shall remain unchanged.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of any resolution addressing hate crimes within our border.

TRIBUTE TO DEBORAH JACOBS WELSH

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Deborah Jacobs Welsh. I have never had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Welsh, but because of her courage and selflessness, I am able to stand here today on the floor of the House of Representatives and honor her memory.

Debbie, as her friends and family lovingly call her, was a flight attendant on United Airlines Flight 93, which was hijacked on that fateful morning of September 11 and then crashed into a field in western Pennsylvania.

But that's only part of the story.

Debbie and others aboard Flight 93 were aware that this hijacking was part of a bigger, coordinated terrorist attack. They knew that not only were their own lives at stake, but the lives of countless people on the ground also hung in the balance. Putting aside their own safety and well-being and overcoming paralyzing fear, several passengers and crew members banded together and vowed to take back control of the plane. Anyone who knows Debbie, knows that, without a doubt, she was part of the group that fought to the end, refusing to give in to the hijackers.

Words cannot express the rollercoaster of emotions running through me on that tragic day, especially when I learned of the heroic actions of those on Flight 93 which, according to authorities, was likely headed for the Capitol Building in Washington, DC. I cannot fathom the further devastation Flight 93 would

have wrought if not for Debbie and the others who made the ultimate sacrifice, all in the name of protecting their fellow Americans and our nation. Because of these courageous individuals, I stand here today unharmed, as do my colleagues, members of my staff, and hundreds of other people who work on Capitol Hill.

The bravery Debbie demonstrated in her final moments was not an isolated incident. Throughout her life, she always stood up for herself and for those around her, doing what she could to right any injustices she encountered. She could light up a room with her smile and her wonderful sense of humor. Debbie showed the same level of loyalty and concern to strangers as she did her family, routinely giving unused airline food to the homeless people in her neighborhood. Most of all, Debbie was a loving wife to Patrick, and a devoted daughter, sister, and aunt.

Debbie will definitely be sorely missed, but she will never be forgotten. Her actions will live on as an example for all Americans.

I know I speak for myself and my colleagues, when I say, "Thank you, Debbie. For everything."

HONORING TODD BEAMER

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, America has found a hero in Todd Beamer, one of the passengers on the hijacked Flight 93 who gave their lives to deny the vicious hijackers their deadly mission. We all mourn the loss of Todd Beamer and the others on that flight and our hearts and prayers go out to Lisa Beamer, their two fine children, and to all the other families of the people on that plane. We also hold up the memory of Mr. Beamer as one who represents what is good about America.

For two centuries observers around the world from Alexis de Toqueville to Winston Churchill, have spoken about the marvelous ability of Americans to rise to meet a challenging situation, the ability of individual Americans to step from their ordinary lives to do extraordinary things.

I attended the memorial service for Todd Beamer at the church in Plainsboro, New Jersey where the Beamer family worships. From the remembrances delivered lovingly by friends and family I learned a lot about the character of this national hero. He was an outstanding athlete who led and inspired his teammates. He was a fine businessman who stood out in a national company. He was an involved and loving father who was looking forward to the upcoming birth of his third child. Especially, I learned that he was a man of deep religious faith, a faith that allowed him to look past death to act so courageously on board Flight 93.

We all believe that band of passengers who fought the hijackers—Todd's father called them freedom fighters—saved hundreds, perhaps thousands of lives that would have been taken if that plane has made its fiery descent into the hijackers' intended target. It is worth noting that none of those people whose lives were saved know who they are. We will never know. But all Americans can be grateful and

can raise up the example of the heroes on that flight.

Their memory reminds us that this is not the last time America will need heroes. The survival of American ideals depends day in and day out on ordinary Americans doing extraordinary things, courageous things. The opportunity comes to every American to do courageous things. Most Americans will never have to face down an armed hijacker, but may have the opportunity in their neighborhoods or among their friends to face down bigotry, intolerance, or injustice. The memory of people like Todd Beamer helps us meet those challenges.

HONORING EXEL OF HOUSTON, TEXAS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, on September 27, 2001, the La Porte-Bayshore Chamber of Commerce will present Exel with the 2001 Industry of the Year Award at their Annual Salute to Industry. Although I will not be able to attend this ceremony, I want to congratulate all the employees at Exel, and in particular the Chief Executive Officer Bruce Edwards, for their excellence in operation and their ongoing commitment to our community.

The Industry of the Year Award, the highest honor presented by the La Porte-Bayshore Chamber of Commerce, is awarded each year to an area business whose mission emphasizes a strong commitment to the community.

Exel is a world leader in supply chain services. Throughout their operations Exel has aggressively employed advanced technology, maintained an industry-focused approach, and expanded their global coverage to include 1,300 locations in 120 countries. Within the gulf coast region alone, Exel employs over 780 people, operate on three local campuses, and services such companies as Dow, ExxonMobil, and Compaq Computers.

Exel has clearly demonstrated their commitment to our community. The Exel Foundation, working in close partnership with the employees, contributes over \$1 million annually to local charities. At Exel, they value the importance of investing in our nation's young people and plan to introduce educational programs in those nations where Exel has a material presence.

In closing, I want to congratulate the employees of Exel for their exemplary model of community activism and wish them continued success in future endeavors.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Armenian Republic on the nation's Tenth Anniversary of Independence. Today, citizens of Armenia, as well as people of Armenian descent here in the United States

and around the world celebrate their independence from the former Soviet Union. Sadly, they will also be mourning the victims of the September 11th attack on our country. Armenia's early response to the attack was to assist American staff in ensuring the security of the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan. President Kocharian joined other world leaders in expressing both his solidarity with America and his shock and sorrow in a letter sent to President Bush. I would like to ask unanimous consent to submit President Kocharian's letter to President Bush for the record.

Since its independence, democratic nations have welcomed Armenia into the family. I am proud that this Congress has consistently voted to provide humanitarian economic development assistance to help Armenia preserve democracy and the institutions of civil society and to continue its transition to a free market economy.

The United States has a fundamental national interest in bringing about stability in the strategically located Caucasus region and in supporting those emerging nations like Armenia that share our values. Given the horrific events of September 11th, it becomes even more important to ensure that the countries in the Caucasus move forward together—economically and politically. We must redouble our efforts to ensure that the tensions in the region subside and that the long-standing differences that divide the countries of the region are resolved. Winners and losers in the Caucasus will only foster greater insecurity and instability at a time when we need to bring everyone together to combat terrorism. I have been encouraged by Armenia's ongoing attempts to reach out to its neighbors—Turkey and Azerbaijan—in a constructive manner.

Mr. Speaker, the story of the Armenian people is an unforgettable story of triumph over adversity and tragedy. Earlier in this century, in one of history's most horrible crimes against humanity, 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children were slaughtered by the Ottoman Turkish Empire. We must continue to remind the world that this genocide is an historic fact—despite the efforts of so-called "revisionists," many of them funded by the Turkish government, to deny the truth—and to make sure that our nation, the world community, and especially the Turkish nation come to terms with and appropriately commemorate this historic fact.

Mr. Speaker, it was the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 that allowed the Armenian people to re-establish a state and a nation, to create a society where their language, culture, religion and other institutions would prosper. The people of Armenia have endeavored to build a free and proud nation, based on the principles of democracy and a market economy.

The tiny, landlocked Republic of Armenia is surrounded by hostile neighbors, who have imposed blockades halting the delivery of basic necessities and greatly hindering economic development. Despite the dual blockades, Armenia continues to implement economic and democratic reforms. During the first six months of this year, Armenia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased by 6.4 percent over last year's level. And during the last year, both the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have publicly noted Armenia's economic progress.

Despite this progress, I would like to say that the economic reality of daily life for the

people of the Republic of Armenia continues to be extremely hard.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that as we mark future Independence Days of the Republic of Armenia, we can look back with pride on building peace and prosperity in the entire Trans-Caucasus region, so that the people of Armenia and their neighbors can enjoy a stable and hopeful future. I hope that the Republics of Turkey and Azerbaijan will respond positively to Armenia's repeated offers to normalize relations. Specifically, I hope that Turkey will allow for the exchange of diplomats and allow the free flow of goods and people across the borders. And I hope that, with the active participation of the United States, we will resolve the Nagorno Karabagh conflict, in a manner that guarantees the security and self-determination of the people of Karabagh.

Finally, I wish the Armenian people well on the occasion of their independence day, and, more important, in their ongoing effort to establish good relations with its neighbors and build a vibrant democracy so that their children may prosper in the homeland of their ancestors.

PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA,
Yerevan, 11 September 2001.

His Excellency GEORGE W. BUSH,
President of the United States of America,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, I have learned with utter shock the news about the terrorist attacks on The World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon building in Washington, which resulted in human loss and massive destruction. The evil of terrorism has shown its ugly face and should be confronted with determination and resolve. Armenia joins the world in condemning this most deplorable and inhuman act of violence. On behalf of the people of Armenia and myself personally, I express our most heartfelt condolences to the people of America and to the bereaved families. We share your grief and wish you strength and patience.

ROBERT KOCHARIAN.

A TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIE RAY JOHNSON AND COLONEL ROGER FISHER HALL, JR.

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to two of North Carolina's finest gentlemen, Brigadier General Willie Ray Johnson and Colonel Roger Fisher Hall, Jr., on their service to and retirement from the North Carolina National Guard.

Theodore Roosevelt, our Nation's 25th president and a member of the National Guard, once said, "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man crumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; . . . who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who . . . knows in the end the triumph of high achievement." For a combined 68 years, General Johnson and Colonel Hall have

been in the arena as part of our Nation's military force and our State's emergency response and community support. And they have served us well.

Since joining the Guard at age 17, General Johnson has served in a variety of assignments and been awarded many decorations. From Supply Officer to Platoon Leader to Maintenance Battalion Commander to Deputy Adjutant General, Ray has served his State and country with distinction and devotion. This service has led to many awards including the Bronze Star Medal, National Defense Service Award, the Kuwait Liberation Medal, and the North Carolina Meritorious Unit Citation. In addition to his National Guard service, General Johnson has been an integral part of civic activities in Sampson County including president of the Roseboro Area Economic Development Commission, member of the Sampson County Shrine Club and a member of the Trustee Board of Sampson Regional Medical Center.

Enlisting in the Guard just prior to his 20th birthday, Colonel Hall has also served in several capacities and received numerous decorations. From Transportation Officer to Motor Officer to Headquarters Commandant to Commander, Colonel Hall has served with character and commitment. His work has been honored by receipt of the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal. Colonel Hall is a member of the Board of Directors of BB&T Bank, has been named Business Person of the Year in Hope Mills, has served as past president of the Cumberland County Democratic Party, and serves me well as Executive Vice-Chairman of the Seventh Congressional District Military & Veterans Affairs Committee.

Mr. Speaker, the North Carolina National Guard is one of the most respected and reliable guard forces in the world. General Johnson and Colonel Hall have been an integral part of their success, and on behalf of the citizens of southeastern North Carolina, I thank them for the service they have given to our State and Nation. May God's strength, peace, and joy be with both of them always.

MEMORIAL TO MS. GALE
CINCOTTA

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, in these times of stress, as we unite and come together as a Nation, we look for leadership and for example to those who have preached unity, who have practiced organization—the bringing together of the diverse people of America for the common good.

Mr. Speaker, last month we lost a great American who spent her life bringing people together for the common good. She did not aspire to public office or great power. She eschewed financial reward. She never left her community.

Mr. Speaker, Gale Cincotta was born in 1929 and grew up in on Chicago's Westside. Gale Cincotta's experiences as a wife, as a mother, as a Westside resident led her to a career as an advocate for the interests of her neighbors, and for common folk everywhere; as